With Gratitude

For the Unveiling of Michael “Mac’ McCaffry
1/7/24

Reb Irwin singing to you and you harmonizing, even as words alluded you at the end.

The song shared as you left this plane continues to resonate.

Thousands of miles from home and so deeply embedded in my heart your essence filled that chapel in Bethlehem.

With our voices raised, we were surrounded by pinpoints of light weaving us together.

Memories of chanting the *shema* years earlier in a room high above the hills in Rome, what a blessed life we shared.

The mid-summer walk to Taizé in the embrace of family where the chants in many languages floated upward.

That sun-filled day as our vows were softly said under an ancient tree while a deer strolled through the grounds.

And from the beginning, the rain of Jarrett’s piano echoed as did the haunting depth of Leonard Cohen

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The ability to infuse very moment with delight even in the mundane, to fill the world with laughter in the face of challenge, to consecrate our lives each to the other.

Now when I call on you, you enfold me with your sweetness, the warmth and comfort of your smile.

So much gratitude for a journey that continues, transformed in essence, yet so tangible.

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What will be the legacy be of your fierce vitality, your compassion burnished by the life you led, the being of light that guides me – and all of us -- as we move forward into this deep fog of life without your presence?

How can we be beacons for those whose lives you touched and for their beloveds so our story continues?

What of us will be gathered by others, be remembered, be a source of gratitude for their lives?

Ubi cáritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Charity and love invite the Divine.

And we are surely in the presence of both love and the transcendent as we stand here on this holy ground.